

use of a solution of the material desired, the compositions and methods of Virtanen et al. and Olinger et al. are distinct from the tableting aids, compositions and methods claimed herein.

Reference is made to Example 2 of Virtanen wherein xylitol powder is combined with a sorbitol syrup solution. However, there is no indication that the solution obtained is spray dried or "fluidized bed" granulated. Instead the solution is said to be sent into a granulator. The resultant grains are then dried in a fluidized bed dryer. This technique is distinct from that claimed by Applicants and does not show or suggest the advantage of spray drying a solution of xylitol and another polyol or the advantage of treating such a solution to fluidized bed granulation.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

The teachings within the cited references of advantages to dissolve xylitol powder in solution provide no hint or suggestion of the second step required by the product by process definition of the invention, which is to expose such a solution to a spray drying technique or fluidized bed granulation technique. The methods and compositions claimed herein are therefore unobvious.

Schwartz U.S. 5,958,471 describes a spray drying technique using compositions attainable by dissolving at least two polyols in water and spraying the resulting aqueous mixture in air. However, Schwartz et al. makes no reference as to the required proportions of xylitol and another polyol to arrive at the granulating properties of the compositions claimed herein. Schwartz broadly defines the suitable range of "between 50:50 and 99:1" for compositions of sorbitol and xylitol at col. 2, lines 13-15. This ratio is inconsistent with the proportions required of the present invention. Mixtures described at col. 2, lines 16-19 of Schwartz are also inconsistent with the ratios of the present invention. Therefore, Schwartz provides no hint or suggestion to prepare the tableting aids claimed herein, the compositions which contain them or the methods for their synthesis.

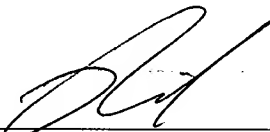
Mizumoto et al. U.S. 5,576,014 adds nothing to show or suggest the ratios of xylitol and another polyol required for the tableting aids claimed herein. Therefore, the combined teachings of these references do not show or suggest the tableting aids

claimed, the compositions which contain them or the methods for their synthesis.

Based on the above remarks Applicants submit that claims 1-20 are in a form suitable for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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